UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 — Monday (Day) 20 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Anchored as before at Buna, New Guinea, in 15 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain on port anchor on following bearings, forward channel range marker 210° true, Buna sea buoy 087° true.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Anchored as before. 0440 - Made annunciator and rudder tests. 0450 - Set special sea detail, secured small boat in davits. 0525 - Weighed anchor, stood by for LSTs 66 and 67 to get underway. 0615 - Passed channel entrance buoy abeam to starboard, bearing 151° true, 1/2 mile off. 0630 - Set course 145° for Cape Sudest, speed standard. 0715 - Changed course to 226° true, speed 1/3. 0720 - Broke formation, proceeded to anchor. 0730 - Anchored off Cape Sudest in 34 fathoms of water to 90 fathoms of chain by the bow anchor.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Anchored as before. 1020 - Guard mail came aboard from LST 466. 1145 - LCPR departed with Lt. Edge, USCGR, to pick up mail on LST 18.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Anchored as before. 1420 - Hoisted LCPR on starboard davits. 1430 - Set special sea detail. 1440 - Anchor aweigh, proceeding at various courses and speeds to beach. 1533 - Let go stern anchor. 1535 - Beached, 420 feet of cable out on stern anchor. 1537 - Bow doors open. 1538 - Bowlines out.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Beached as before on Cape Sudest. 1645 - Began loading cargo. 1705 - 15 30 calibre carbine rifles were brought aboard for ship's use.
The following men were advanced in rating:
BROOKS, Archibald (599-001) Q.M.2c(R) to Q.M.1c(R)
THOMPSON, Irving R. (534-409) S.M.2c(R) to S.M.1c(R)
MARIK, Norbert C. (527-781) G.M.3c(R) to G.M.2c(R)
LONG, Thomas R.,Jr.(527-882) Q.M.3c(R) to S.M.2c(R).
GRIGGS, Lawson E. (538-711) F.2c(R) to F.1c(R).
HULL, Oscar L. (614-121) F.2c(R) to F.1c(R)
QUIGGLE, Eugene H. (558-861) F.2c(R) to F.1c(R)
SMITH, Robert F. (517-021) changed rating from Cox.(R) to C.M.3c(R).
Authority: Coast Guard Headquarters' Letter 24 July, 1943 (CG-73-783-701)
ORTIZ, Severino D. (108-031) S.C.1c voluntarily extended his enlistment for a 3 year period and such other extensions necessary due to the war. Authority: Article 541 C.G. Regulations and Alcoast 022211/2 January, 1942.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Beached as before on Cape Sudest, loading cargo.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Beached as before, loading cargo.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Tuesday (Day) 21 (Date) December (Month), 19 43

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Beached at Cape Sudest, New Guinea, taking on cargo. 0300 - Yellow alert, turned out all lights and ceased loading operations. Other LSTs on the beach - 67, 202, and 204.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Beached as before loading cargo. 0410 - Green alert, all clear. Ship lighted, loading resumed. 0500 - Completed loading of bulk stores. 0720 - Started loading vehicles on main deck.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Beached as before loading cargo. 1000 - CROSSEN, Edward W. (251-497) S.K.1c(Pro) returned with canteen supplies.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Beached as before loading cargo. 1200 - LCPR departed for Oro Bay with COX, Williard M. (586-795) Sea.1c(R) who will remain temporarily with the boat. 1315 - Completed loading cargo. Received a total of 104 vehicles weighing a total (loaded) of 350 tons. Bulk supplies - 100 tons - includes ammunition, barbed wire, hospital supplies, and gasoline; total tonnage 4500. 1330 - Raised the ramp. 1335 - Retracted from the beach and closed bow doors. 1338 - Stern anchor up, and at various speeds stood out of harbor on various courses to stay on the range and avoid reefs. 1445 - Dropped anchor in 23 fathoms of water with 75 fathoms of chain, Cape Endaidere bearing 314° true, forward range mark Cape Sudest 263° true. 1445 - Lowered and fueled LCV. 1500 - Received orders from Shore Station to shift anchorage. Set special sea detail. 1505 - LCV departed for shore to get medical supplies and personnel. 245 gallons diese fuel put in small boat. 1515 - Weighed anchor and proceeded to new anchorage. 1600 - Anchored in 21 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain, Cape Endaidere bearing 326° true and Forward Range on Cape Sudest 317° true.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Anchored as before. 1650 - LCV returned with Capt. A.N. Hunt, U.S. Army and 25 enlisted men U.S. Army as passengers. 1700 - LCV hoisted on port davit.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Anchored as before, draft forward 4' aft 13' 3". 1918 - Colors. 1930 - Reports, all secure above and below.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Anchored as before. 2325 - LCV departed for LST 18 to pick up Major Clemente, U.S. Army, and supplies per order, Squad X21

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Wednesday (Day) 22 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Anchored as before in 21 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain, approximately 3 miles off Cape Sudest, New Guinea. Ship darkened. 0100 - Lt.(jg) Hansen, USCGR, returned in LCV with Major Clemente, U.S. Army, and Sgt. Wendler, U.S. Army, who came aboard as passengers, also medical supplies.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Anchored as before.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Anchored as before. 0800 - Morning muster and colors. 0855 - LCV departed with Lt.Comdr. Steubner, USNR, Major Clemente, U.S. Army Medical Corps, Estis, J., Pfc, U.S. Army Medical Corps, and Clinton, M., Pfc, U.S. Army Medical Corps. 1020 - Small boat from LST 202 picked up Lt. Edge, USCGR, to go to LST 18 for guard mail. 1115 - Lt. Edge, USCGR, returned.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Anchored as before. 1205 - Mullins, S.Sgt., Spicer, T5, Smith, T4, Haffner, T5, Flore,T5, and Scalzo,T3, all U.S. Army, came aboard with an Army LCV which was hoisted on our starboard davit for transport. 1510 - Set port watch for drill purposes. 1512 - Had general quarters drill. 1515 - All guns manned and ready. 1527 - Secured from general quarters. 1529 - Set starboard watch. 1537 - General quarters drill. 1542 - All stations manned and ready, drill secured. 1544 - Drill for fire in after magazine. 1548 - Secured from fire drill. 1549 - Tested foamite apparatus, test satisfactory. 1551 - Fire drill in forward gasoline storage, port side. 1553 - First water. 1554 - Drill secured. 1556 - Collision drill, forward port side. 1558 - Secure from collision drill; held abandon ship drill. 1600 - Secure from all drills. 1405 - Dentman, Ph.M.1c from LST 22 came aboard.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Anchored as before off Cape Sudest.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Anchored as before. 1925 - Colors. 1928 - Small boat from LST 22 alongside to pick up Dentman, Ph.M.1c; departed immediately. 1930 - Received eight o'clock reports - all secure except machine shop, will be secure in 2 hours.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Anchored as before. 2140 - Machine shop secured.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hansen, Lieut(jg USCGR
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—83079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Thursday (Day) 23 (Date) December, (Month) , 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Anchored at Cape Sudest, New Guinea, in 21 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain on port anchor. U.S.S. LST 466 Flag.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Anchored as before.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Anchored as before. 0800 - Colors. 0815 - Electricians working on public address system. 0910 - Lieut. K.A.E. Lindquist, USCG, departed ship to attend conference ashore. 1030 - Lt. Seny, U.S. Army came aboard with instructions for crew of Army LCV on our starboard davit. 1050 - Lt. Seny departed.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Anchored as before. 1340 - Lieut. K.A.E. Lindquist, USCG, returned.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Anchored as before. 1700 - Checked accuracy of our stadimeter with LSTs 18 and 204.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Anchored as before. 1925 - Evening colors. 1930 - Eight o'clock reports, all secure except carpenter's shop which will secure in one and a half hours and the galley which will secure at 2330.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Anchored as before off Cape Sudest, New Guinea.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Friday (Day) 24 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest	Buna
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Anchored off Cape Sudest, New Guinea, in 21 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain, bearings: Outer Range Mark on Cape Sudest 317° true, Cape Endaidere 326° true.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Anchored as before, carried out usual morning routine.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Anchored as before, draft 3'6" forward 13'6" aft. 1110 - Set special sea detail. 1115 - Anchor aweigh, proceeding on various courses to beach.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Underway as before approaching Cape Sudest Beach. 1227 - Dropped stern anchor. 1228 - Beached at Strip Seven, 400 feet of cable out on stern anchor. 1230 - Opened bow doors and ramp. 1239 - Secured special sea detail, set port watch. 1242 - Began loading troops. 1420 - Completed loading troops, total loaded 608 from the following groups: Fourth Battalion, Eleventh Marines ("L" Btry)(H&S Btry), Engineer Group (4th Pl. Casual Co.) (Hq. 2nd Bn., 17th Marines)("C" Co. 1st Bn., 17th Marines) Fifth Air Support, Second Air Liason Party, Battery "D" First Special Weapons Battalion, Service and Supply Co. 1st Service Battalion, Company "C" 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion, CT "C", CP, (Headquarters Seventh Marines), Second Battalion, Seventh Marines and Third Battalion, Seventh Marines. This brings total troops aboard to 644. Raised the ramp. 1435 - Retracted from the beach, closed bow doors. 1450 - Anderson, C.R., American Red Cross came aboard as passenger. Proceeded out of channel on range. 1535 - Anchored in 25 fathoms of water to 60 fathoms of chain, Outer Range bearing 257 and Cape Endaidere 297° true. 1545 - Secured special sea detail, set port watch.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Anchored as before. 1730 - Set special sea detail. 1739 - Underway on various speeds and courses proceeding to form convoy. 1744 - Set course at 325° true, speed 2/3. 1748 - Changed speed to standard or 9 knots.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) 1821 - Secured special sea detail, section II, Condition III-M. 1832 - Changed course to 298° true. 1835 - Changed course to 320° true. 1840 - Dropped anchor in 20 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain in following bearing: Buna sea buoy 255° true, Gumburo Hill 316° true.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Anchored as before. 2030 - Small boat from LST 66 arrived to get some 40MM ammunition. 2040 - Our LCV returned with the Commanding Officer and Lt.(jg) Smith from LST 466. 2105 - LCV departed with Lt.(jg) Smith to deliver guard mail. 2140 - Small boat from LST 66 departed with 224 rounds of 40MM ammunition. 2210 - Our LCV returned and was immediately hoisted and secured for sea. 2400 - Secured port watch and set sea watch, starboard section, condition II.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 | Saturday (Day) 25 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	7° 51' S.	7° 20' S.	6° S.
Long.	148° 5' 30" E.	148° 1' 30" E.	147° 42' E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Anchored off Buna Sea Buoy, distance one mile, bearing 255° true, Gumboro Hill, 316°T in 25 fathoms of water to 60 fathoms of chain. Set condition II, starboard watch. 0150 - Started main engines. 0225 - Made tests in preparation for getting underway, started heaving in anchor. 0250 - Anchor aweigh. 0255 - Underway on various courses and speeds forming convoy. 0310 - Set course 339° true, speed standard. 0320 - Changed course to 329° true. 0335 - Formed Dog formation. 0349 - Passed Margaret Shoal Buoy abeam to starboard, distance one half a mile.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Steaming on course 329° true. 0716 - Mitre Rock abeam to port bearing 239° true, distance 1.5 miles. 0744 - Section II formed column to starboard.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Steaming on course 329° true. 0815 - Changed course to 354° true. 0901 - Exercised at general quarters. 0904 - All stations amnned and ready. 0910 - Test-fired 20MM guns 2,4, and 6 and the 40MM gun. Expended 90 rounds of 20MM ammunition and 5 rounds of 40MM ammunition. No casualties. 0915 - Secured from general quarters, set Condition II, starboard watch. 1015 - Task Force speed set at 9.5 knots.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Steaming as before on course 354° true, speed 9.5. 1425 - Changed course to 036° true, Fix on Tami Island (north shore) 329° true and Cape Fortification 346°. 1430 - LSTs 26 and 465 left formation heading for Finschaven. 1434 - Changed course to 060° true, Fix on Cape Gerhards 280° true, Cape Fortification 343° true, Tami Island, 309° true. 1438 - Changed speed to 2/3. 1445 - Changed course to 030° true. 1451 - Changed speed to standard. 1455 - Changed speed to 2/3. 1457 - Changed course to 354° true, Fix on Cape Fortification 336° true, and Cape Gerhards 275° true. 1510 - Changed speed to standard. 1540 - LST 204 joined our formation.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Steaming on course 354° true, sighted Umboi Island. 1645 - Changed standard speed to eight knots. 1715 - Fix on east side of Umboi Island bearing 005 true course to 325° true.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Steaming as before on course 325° true, speed 8. 1930 - Received eight o'clock reports, all secure except machine shop and galley. Galley will not secure tonight. Condition Yoke set below decks.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Steaming as before on course 325° true, speed 8. 2045 - Ship on our starboard quarter fired AA guns. 2050 - Ship on starboard quarter again fired AA guns, no alert sounded. 2200 - One LCI passed on our port side heading north. 2225 - Changed course to 000° t. 2250 - Secured port engine to make repairs. 2306 - Port engine repaired and running satisfactorily.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—83079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 | Sunday (Day) | 26 (Date) | December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	5° 28' S.	148° 30' 30" E.	5° 21' 20" S.
Long.	148° 32' E.	5° 29' 30" S.	147° 44' 45"E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Steaming on course 000° true, speed 7.5, in convoy through Vitiaz Strait in company with 6 other LSTs, OTC 466 and 4 destroyers. 0042 - Changed course to 049° true. 0231 - Changed course to 089° true.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Steaming as before on course 089° true. 0415 - West side of Sakar Island abeam to starboard bearing 179° true. 0506 - Sounded the alarm for General Quarters. 0513 - All stations reported manned and ready. 0600 - Sighted gun flashed from Allied cruisers lying off Cape Gloucester shelling the beach of the Cape. 0633 - Our light and heavy naval forces moved in closer and continued shelling the beach. 0658 - Sighted one B-24 bearing 180° true, traveling southwest. 0703 - Sunrise. 0708 - Began warming engines of trucks on the main deck. 0709 - Seven B-24s and two Thunderbolts, 10,000 feet high on our starboard side were traveling port. 0720 - Observed anti-aircraft fire bearing 140° true, apparantly on the beach. 0723 - Fifty B-24's sighted bearing 45° true, elevation 10. 0730 - Received orders from Task Commander regarding lowering of LCV aboard for transportation. 0731 - One plane seen to fall in flames on the beach. 0734 - Changed course to 130° true approaching Silimati Point, New Britain. 0740 - Two high gysers of water were seen bearing 340° true about two miles away. B-24s in groups of three flew over the objective dropping bombs. The anti-aircraft fire was very weak and spasmodic. 0745 - Began warming the engines of the vehicles on the tank deck. 0751 - Changed course to 160° true. 0756 - Changed course to 180° true, approaching the objective beach between Silimati Point and an

(0800-1200) un-named islet on the north Coast of New Britain. 0802 - All engines of vehicles are running. Observed heavy smoke hanging over the objective. 0808 - Turned off 3 aft blowers from tank deck; carbon monoxide concentration set off the alarm and the blowers were turned on again. 0810 - Number 3 red buoy marking a shoal along the approach lane to the beach is abeam. 0813 -Eight B26s circled low overhead and headed toward the beach. 0817 - Twenty four P-38s to starboard; 10,000 feet. 0820 - Began to enter the smoke screen - visibility 1,000 yards. 0824 - Heard machine gun fire on the beach. Reduced to 1/3 speed. Observed Airacobras flying low over the beach. 0827 - Opened the bow doors. 0830 - Lowered the Army LCVP carried for transportation. 0835 - Observed an undetermined number of P-38s overhead. 0842 - Changed course to 225° true; visibility 300 yards. 0843 - A number of B26s crossed our bow from port to starboard. 0845 - Heard heavy explosions to starboard. 0847 - Two LCIs left the beach and passed to port. 0856 - Lowered stern anchor to the water's edge. 0900 - Stopped all engines, maneuvering into position for a run at the beach. 0910 - Received a message that enemy planes were approaching - heard more explosions on the beach. 0912 At various speeds proceeded toward the beach. 0915 - Sighted the marker where we were ordered to beach. 0919 - Dropped the stern anchor. 0921 - Successfully beached the ship on starboard side of LST 67, the small un-named islet northwest of Silimati Point bearing 344° true from the conn. 600 feet of cable out on stern anchor. Lowered the ramp. 0924 - Secured the watch in the steering engine room. 0927 - Began unloading vehicles. 0927 - Hoisted a signal meaning "we are ready to receive casualties" 0940 - First wounded brought aboard. 1020 - Began lowering vehicles from the main deck. Engines are being used to keep the ship on the beach in position as the surf tends to swing the stern around. We are attempting to help get three small boats off the beach pushed up by the surf, by using our stern winch, but unsuccessful. Fighter planes are patrolling overhead. Load is being removed.

Lloyd L. Hanson

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(continued next page)

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Sunday (Day) 26 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.			
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

1200-1600) Beached as before. 1235 - 7 LSTs appeared on horizon. 1315 - Completed unloading. 1350 - Lifted ramp. 1355 - Backing off beach, proceeding at various courses and speeds off shore. 1359 - Closed bow doors. 1437 - Sounded general quarters. LSTs in open column formation of 3 ships in each of 2 columns. 1440 - Two "Vals" dived on port column fore to aft, dropping bombs on port side of LST 66 and 67. 1441 - All foward 20MM and 40MM guns opened fire. "Vals" attempted strafing but guns forced them to starboard. 3"50 opened fire when planes appeared within range. 20MM fire appeared to hit wings and body of plane. 1442- Ceased firing #3 20MM gun suffered broken ejector and temporarily out of action. 1445 - 40MM opened fire on "Val" on starboard bow bearing 020° true. 1447 - Plane crashed in flames on beach off starboard quarters. 1452 - One P-38 crashed in flames on port bow bearing 300° true. 1458 - Probable "Val" crashed on port beam. 1503 - Two "Vals" on starboard beam fired all guns. 1552 - Bomb splashes off port bow. 1555 - Destroyer on starboard opened fire. Following casualties evacuated from beach by hospital unit of this ship: Wakefield, Max H. HAlc 876-36-80 USN, Rishel, Paul C.,Pfc 342738, USMC, Bringhosst, John R., Cpl, 295711 USMC, O'Brien, James P., Pfc, 331924, USMC, Roycharski, Leo F., Cpl., 354207, USMC, Reifsnyder, Chas. E., Pfc, 333359, USMC

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-2000) Steaming on course 278° true north of Cape Gloucester. 1600 - 10 B-24s with fighter escort on our starboard bow. 1612 - Four "Vals" flying high two points on our port quarter, P-38s overhead. Our Task Force at this point is 6 LSTs 4 destroyers, 2 SCs and 1 YMS. The destroyer "SHAW" has been hit and is fighting a fire amidships. 1700 - Several "Bettys" sighted. Opened fire with 3"50 cal., one hit claimed. 3 planes fell in flames on our port side, evidently being shot down by fighters (P-38s) 1705 - One Thunderbolt crashed into the sea on our port bow. 1732 - Unidentified plane crashed on the horizon on the starboard bow. 1735 - "SHAW" (destroyer) opened fire on a plane. Results unknown. 1735 - Changed course to 270° true. Battle is over - expended 18 rounds 3"50 cal. and 940 rounds 20MM and 51 rounds of 40MM ammunition. No casualties. 1845 - Secured from General Quarters, set starboard watch. 1958 - Changed course to 234° true.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Steaming on course 234° true, 9.8 knots. 2130 - Changed course to 180° true. 2320 - Changed course to 144° true.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Monday (Day) 27 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	6° 58' S.	7° 38' 30" S.	Buna
Long.	147° 52' E.	148° 3' E.	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Steaming in Vitiaz Strait, New Guinea, enroute from Borgen Bay, New Britain, to Cape Sudest, New Guinea. Course 144° true. Other LSTs present: 66, 67, 18, 202, and 204. LST 18 is Flagship. 0012 - Changed course to 137° true. 0355 - Changed course to 187° true. Speed 10.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg)USCGR.

(0400-0800) Steaming as before on course 187° true, speed 9.9. 0645 - Changed course to 215° true, speed 9.9. 0710 - Friendly planes sighted on starboard quarter.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Steaming as before on course 215° true. 0845 - Changed course to 159° true. 0900 - Took distance of 500 yards between ships.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Steaming as before on course 159° true. 1325 - Sighted Mitre Rock bearing 157° true. 1400 - Changed course to 115° true, shoal northeast of Mitre Rock bearing 139° true and and Mitre Rock 160° true. 1430 - Changed course to 174°. 1455 - Fix: Gumboro Hill 176° true, Mitre Rock 215° true. 1515 - Mitre Rock abeam to starboard bearing 263° true, 1.8 miles. 1530 - Changed course to 151° true, Gumboro Hill bearing 175° true, Mitre Rock 312° true, speed 10.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Steaming as before on course 151° true, speed 9.9. 1617 - Raymond Shoal bearing 105° true. 1627 - Raymond Shoal abeam bearing 060° true, distance off 1.6 miles. 1650 - Formed single column. 1737 - Claire Shoal bearing 105° true.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Steaming on course 151° true. 1815 - Changed course to 176° true. 1827 - Changed course to 140° true. 1852 -Turn 90° to port course 050° true. 1856 - Speed zero. 1900 - Let go anchor in 21 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain on port anchor off Buna, anchor bearing front range 200° true, entrance range 159° true. 1920 - Colors.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) 2001 - Weighed anchor on orders of O.T.C. and proceeded to anchorage off Cape Sudest. 2115 - Anchored in 25 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain. 2130 - Special sea detail secured and set the port watch.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—83079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 | Tuesday (Day) | 28 (Date) | December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Anchored at Cape Sudest, New Guinea, in 25 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain, awaiting orders. 0210 - Received orders to beach at Cape Sudest as soon as possible in the morning.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Anchored as before. 0615 - Set special sea detail. 0632 - Anchors aweigh, proceeding to beach at Cape Sudest, at various courses and speeds.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) At Cape Sudest, underway, approaching the beach. 0852 - Dropped the stern anchor. 0855 - Beached in strip 5, Cape Sudest, 700 feet of cable out on the stern anchor. 0902 - LST 18 beached on our port. 0906 - Lowered the ramp. 0915 - Put our casualties ashore. 0935 - O'Maley, Paul K., Sea.1c, Cavallaro, J., Sea.1c, and Hull, Oscar L., F.1c, departed for Oro Bay to bring back our LCPR. 0937 - Began loading cargo. 1120 - Brought canteen supplies aboard. 1125 - Commander Peterson, USCG, came aboard. 1140 - Commander Peterson, USCG, departed.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Beached as before at Cape Sudest, strip 5, continuing to load cargo.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Beached as before at Cape Sudest, strip #5.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Beached as before. 1800 - Lt.(jg) P.W. Fitzmaurice, USCGR, Major Clemente, U.S. Army, Sidney, Junior W., G.M.1c, USCGR, went ashore. 1900 - Lieut. Lindquist, USCG, went ashore. 1907 - Lieut. Lindquist, USCG, returned. 1915 - Lt.(jg) P.W. Fitzmaurice, USCGR, Major Clemente, U.S. Army, and Sidney, Junior W., G.M.1c, USCGR, returned with parts for 50 cal. machine guns. 1926 - Finished taking on cargo - a total of 66 vehicles and 250 tons of bulk cargo, including rations, ammunition and gasoline. Total tons - 750. Took on 292 passengers aboard, enlisted men and eight officers of the First Division, USMC. Closed the ramp, special sea detail set. 1941 - Retracted from the beach, closed bow doors. 1945 - Stern anchor secured. Stood out of channel on range.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Proceeding toward anchorage off Cape Sudest. 2135 - Stopped all engines. 2143 - All engines ahead 1/3. 2156 - Task Unit formed. 2202 - All engines ahead standard. 2212 - Fix on Cape Sudest Range 183° true and Margaret Shoals 335° true. 2300 - Changed course to 302° true. 2305 - Formed column open order. 2318 - Changed course to 278° true. Margaret Shoals bearing 324° true.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68

Wednesday (Day) 29 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	7° 28' S.	6° 58' S.	5° 56' S.
Long.	147° 36' E.	148° 06' E.	147° 47' 15" E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Steaming off Cape Ward Hunt on course 324° true, speed 9. 0145 - Changed course to 005° true, speed 9, 0310 - Changed course to 310° true.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Steaming on course 310° true, speed 9.5. 0650 - Section II formed column to port.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Steaming on course 310° true as before. 0813 - Changed course to 035° true, Straggling Islands bearing 266° true, speed 8.9.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Steaming as before on course 035° true, speed 9.2. 1325 - Changed course to 342° true. 1530 - Requested permission from CTU to test fire new 50 calibre guns. 1540 - Permission granted to test fire. 1545 - Turned 50 degrees to starboard to course 032° true. 1550 - Turned 50 degrees to port to course 342° true, speed 9.2. 1555 - Held general quarters drill.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Steaming on course 342° true. 1600 - Stopped port engine for fuel pump repairs. 1609 - Strange aircraft sighted. Sounded general quarters. 1612 - All stations manned and ready. Open column to 1000 yards. 1630 - Secured general quarters. 1630 - Changed course to 325° true, Cape Cretin bearing 206° true. 1645 - Tested 50 cal. machine guns Tests satisfactory.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Steaming as before on course 324° true. 1927 - Fix: Teliata Point, 278° true and Fortificatinn Point 173° true. 1930 - Eight o'clock reports - all departments condition "Yoke" where necessary. Galley is not secured.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Steaming as before on course 324° true, speed 9. 2135 - Changed course to 000° true. 2250 - Changed course to 350° true.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Thursday (Day) 30 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	5° 25' S.	5° 30' S.	5° 19' S.
Long.	148° 29' 30" E.	148° 30' E.	148° 04' E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Steaming as before on course 350° true with task unit LST 18 Flag in Vitiaz Strait, speed 8.9. 0020 - Changed course to 052° true. 0115 - Changed course to089° true. 0300 - Set standard speed at eight knots. 0330 - White flare appeared two points on starboard bow near Sakar Island.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice Lt(jg) USCGR)
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Steaming as before on course 089° true. 0608 - Sounded General Quarters. 0611 - All stations manned and ready. 0615 - Changed course to 138° true. 0640 - Tested engines of vehicles. 0642 - Changed course to 162° true, approaching Silimati Point, New Britain. 0745 - Pilot came aboard, set standard speed for the beach.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Approaching the beach at Silimati Point, New Britain. 0820 - Dropped stern anchor. 0822 - Stopped the engines, having hit at standard speed, 700 feet of cable out on stern anchor. Beached between Silimati Point and a small islet Northwest of Silimati Point. This bears 354° true from the ship on the beach. 0830 - Opened the ramp. 0845 -Began unloading. Put out bow lines and starboard quarter line. 0848 - Raised flag meaning, "We are ready to receive casualties." 0916 - Began unloading main deck. 1017 - First wounded brought aboard. 1129 - Japanese prisoner of war was brought aboard.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Beached on yellow #1. Payne, F.J. 2nd Lt., U.S. Army, Miner, A., Segt., U.S. Army, Silver, D., Pfc., U.S. Army came aboard for transportation. 1300 - B-17s dropping supplies to troops by parachute. 1330 - Completed unloading. 1404 - Bow doors closed. Prepared to retract with twenty one Marine casualties, one Japanese prisoner of war, and two empty Army trucks. 1415 - Retracted, standing various courses and speeds off shore - convoy forming up.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Forming convoy, standing out toward Sakar Island. 1605 - All ships in formation; two columns of 3 LSTs each, a screen of 4 destroyers. 1705 - Changed course to 270° true. 1715 - Changed course to 279° true.

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Steaming as before on course 279° true, speed 9.5. 1928 - Sakar Island east side abeam bearing 189° true. 1950 - Secured from general quarters and set sea watch, section II.

Richard F. Kipp
Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Steaming as before on course 279° true. 2235 - Changed course to 210° true.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice
Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson
Lloyd L. Hanson, Lieut(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

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☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 16—33079-1

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 68 Friday (Day) 31 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	6° 43' S.	7° 23' S.	8° 46' S.
Long.	148° 15' E.	148° 16' E.	148° 32' E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

(0000-0400) Steaming in Vitiaz Strait enroute from Cape Gloucester to Cape Sudest in company with LSTs 18, 67, 66, 202, 453, and four destroyers. Course 210° true. 0003 - Changed course to 179° true. 0145 - Course changed to 145° true, speed 9.5.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0400-0800) Steaming as before on course 145° true., speed 9.5. 0646 - Changed course to 172° true. 0730 - Changed course to 180° true, speed 9.5. 0750 - Fix on Fortification Point, 316° true and Tami Island, 267° true.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(0800-1200) Steaming as before on course 180° true, speed 9.5.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1200-1600) Steaming as before on course 179° true. 1245 - Changed course to 172° true. 1543 - Changed course to 185° true, speed 9.4.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1600-1800) Steaming as before on course 185° true, speed 9.6. 1615 - Abeam of Mitre Rock bearing 275° true. 1630 - Formed single column. 1655 - Changed course to 142° true, speed 9.6.

Richard F. Kipp, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(1800-2000) Steaming as before on 142° true. 1837 - Passed Eleanor Shoal Buoy astern to starboard. 1907 - Passed Claire Shoal Buoy abeam to port. 1925 - Changed course to 140° true. 1930 - Reports, all secure condition "Yoke" set.

Paul W. Fitzmaurice, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

(2000-2400) Steaming as before heading for Cape Sudest, course 141° true. 2030 - Changed course 167° true. 2116 - Changed course to 173° true. 2134 - Stopped all engines. 2140 - Anchored off Cape Sudest in 22 fathoms of water to 75 fathoms of chain. 2145 - Set port watch.

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.

Approved:

K.A.E. LINDQUIST, Lieut., USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

Lloyd L. Hanson, Lt.(jg) USCGR.
Navigator.

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THIS IS CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL. IT HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND FOUND COMPLETE.

Lloyd L. Hanson

LLOYD L. HANSON LT. (JG)(USCGR)

FORWARDED AND APPROVED

K.A.E. LINDQUIST LT. (USCG)